

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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DAY REPORTS DUCK AND GOOSE INCREASE,  
CREDITS STIFF '47-'48 REGULATIONS

The annual inventory of North America's migratory waterfowl on the wintering grounds revealed an encouraging increase in the continent's duck and goose populations, Albert M. Day, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service reported today. A heavy decline in the coot population, however, kept the total 1949 waterfowl population at about the same level as it was in 1948, he said.

Mr. Day credited improved conditions on the breeding grounds coupled with the stringent hunting regulations of the past two years for the new gains in duck and goose populations. He also cited the value of the Service's wildlife refuges which provide resting and feeding grounds for the birds on their annual migrations.

"The regulations have been purposely severe during the past two years to overcome the 1945-47 tailspin in waterfowl populations," he said. "The duck and goose increases in the 1949 inventory indicate that the regulations have had the desired effect, and have halted the decline."

The Service is "much encouraged" by the increases disclosed on the wintering grounds, he said, but no predictions can be made about the 1949 regulations until the summer breeding ground studies are concluded, but it does look encouraging.

Mr. Day declared that the winter inventory supported the results of the 1948 waterfowl breeding ground studies, which forecast an increase in wintering duck and goose populations.

The winter inventory was conducted January 11-14 to determine the trends of increase or decrease in the continent's waterfowl populations. It was the Fish and Wildlife Service's 15th annual inventory.

Important wintering grounds from Alaska to Guatemala, including the large West Indies islands, were surveyed. About 1,300 trained observers, using planes, automobiles, and boats, participated in the inventory. In addition to Service personnel, pilots of the armed forces and Canadian, Mexican, and state conservation agency specialists took part.

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